Proper Utilisation of NDF Money

*150. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that faced with wide dichotomy in the benefits doled out by the Central and State Governments to those killed in the Kargil conflict and the soldiers perishing in Kashmir, the Adjutant General's branch of Army Hqs. moved a proposal to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) asking for parity;

(b) whether Army Officers fear that money from NDF will be used for flood relief, rather than for the benefit of dead soldiers families; and

(c) if so, what precautionary measues have been taken by Government for proper utilisation of NDF money?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A proposal has been received from Army Headquarters for parity in the amount of ex gratia payable, and other benefits provided from the National Defence Fund, to the next of kin and families of Armed Forces personnel killed in the Kargil conflict and to those killed in other operations.

(b) and (c) Government have no information about apprehensions regardings utilisation of the National Defence Fund. The Fund is utilised for purposes connected with Defence efforts including welfare of the members of the Armed Forces and Para-Military Forces and their dependants.

Modernisation of Assam Police

*151. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Assam Police Force is being modernised with Central assistance;

(b) if so, what is the target date for completion of the modernisation; and

(c) what are the items provided to the State police for such modernisation?